PARKS SYSTEM PLAN

1992

Yukon
Renewable Resources

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PARK SYSTEM PLAN

PARKS AND OUTDOOR RECREATION BRANCH

FINAL REPORT

JUNE, 1992

Yukon
Renewable Resources

TR-92-7

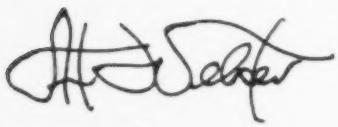
Message From the Minister

This is one of four system plans developed by the Department of Renewable Resources to guide the creation of a Yukon parks system into the next century. The plans follow the Yukon Conservation Strategy and the Parks and Outdoor Recreation Policy approved by Cabinet in 1991.

They are a way of protecting the Yukon's environment while enhancing its recreation potential and they represent the government's commitment to cooperative management of Yukon's natural, cultural and recreational resources.

I would especially like to extend my appreciation to representatives of public interest groups who participated in the plan's development. They provided the broad perspective needed to ensure the plans address the concerns of all Yukon people.

This Park System Plan sets the terms by which new parks will be selected, developed and managed. The plan will focus on individual park proposals and, through the participation of Yukon people, to create a comprehensive system of territorial parks that we can all have pride in.



Art Webster
Minister of Renewable Resources

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YUKON TERRITORIAL PARKS SYSTEM PLAN

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Parklands are special places. They are areas of natural, unique, or heritage resource value. They are used for recreation and for appreciation of history and nature. Implementation of a Parks System Plan through the identification, classification and establishment of parklands is a critical step in our effort to maintain and protect the aesthetic and intrinsic values that our society ascribes to special places. Parks will provide Yukoners and visitors with enhanced opportunities to learn about the natural and historic heritage of the Yukon.

System planning establishes goals, policies and procedures intended to provide a mechanism for the creation and delivery of "something" serving a common good. Within the context of Parks System Planning, that "something" is described in Section 6(1) of the Parks Act as the identification and designation of a system of special areas (parklands) intended to "protect unique natural and historic features and provide for comprehensive outdoor recreational opportunities".

1.1 Mandate

The Yukon Parks Act provides the mandate for developing a system of territorial parks in the Yukon. Section 6(1) of the Act states "The Commissioner in Executive Council may establish a system of parks to protect unique natural and historic features and provide for comprehensive outdoor recreation opportunities". Further to the Act, Cabinet approved the Parks and Outdoor Recreation Policy in 1991. This policy refined the direction and focus for the development of a system of parks in the Yukon. In particular, the focus has shifted from protecting unique natural features to protecting portions of the land that are representative of the ecological diversity of the Yukon.

1.2 Purpose of the Plan

The Parks System Plan is a tool that will be used to establish a balanced system of parks. This balance includes representation of all ecoregions and park themes found in the Yukon and ensures the protection of unique or rare species of plants and animals, as well as unique landscape features and natural processes. It will ensure that user and community needs will be considered where possible.

1.3 Benefits

The Yukon will benefit from a system of parks. Historic sites, and special and representative natural areas will be protected. This will ensure the continuation of these areas in a pristine state

and will allow for the maintenance of ongoing recreational, educational and research opportunities.

2.0 YUKON PARKS SYSTEM PLAN - OVERVIEW

In preparing the Yukon Parks System Plan, extensive research was undertaken, including public consultations and liaising with federal, provincial and North West Territories officials. The result is a plan which reflects the unique physical and social characteristics of the Yukon, but which builds upon and complements the positive work done in other jurisdictions.

The plan integrates Yukon Parks goals and objectives with what we know about the land (science) and what we have done on it (culture). Conceptually, the plan is organized on two fronts:

(1) Through the identification of three categories of parklands: Historic and Natural Environment Parks, and Ecological Reserves. Management Plans will be prepared for each park in the system. Park zoning will be utilized in each management plan, enabling flexibility within each of the park categories.

(2) Through the identification of eight Yukon Park Landscapes to be utilized as park planning regions (see Map #1). Park Landscapes incorporate scientific elements, such as ecoregions, as well as cultural elements, such as traditional areas of Yukon First Nations. A thematic framework will be described for each landscape using the following general categories: Culture; Vegetation and Wildlife; and Physiography and Climate. This framework will influence the selection of parks and will be used for interpretive planning.

While the plan has been written to complement Parks System Plans in neighbouring jurisdictions as well as the National Parks Plan, it is unique in its inclusion of all of Historic and Natural Environment Parks and Ecological Reserves. In preparing the plan, it was the aim of the Yukon Parks and Outdoor Recreation Branch to borrow positive elements from available models and to integrate them into the Yukon Plan, so as to address our goals and objectives, while remaining complementary to the approaches pursued by neighbouring park agencies.

2.1 Planning Process

Yukon Parks System planning is a two phase process. This report represents the culmination of phase one. It describes the goals of the Parks System, the classification system to be used, and the criteria that will be employed to select new parks.

During the preparation of this plan extensive consultations were undertaken within government, as well as with stakeholder groups in Yukon communities. The result is a plan which provides for full community involvement in its implementation, while at the same time ensures that overall government goals and objectives continue to be represented within the Parks System.

The second phase will involve a process similar to the first. Government will work in consultation with non-government organizations and the public. A Steering Committee will be established, chaired by Renewable Resources and including representation from key departments (Tourism, Economic Development and Community and Transportation Services). This Committee will ensure that the Park System is implemented in a manner which both reflects community perspectives and maximizes potential social and economic benefits to the Yukon as a whole.

Phase two will be implemented on a Park Landscape by Park Landscape basis, following completion of land claims settlements with individual Yukon First Nations. Efforts will be made to ensure that Park System Plan objectives are considered during settlement negotiations.

2.2 PARKS SYSTEM PLANNING - BENEFITS

Protection: The protection of key Yukon historic sites, special features, and representative landscapes is the primary focus of the Parks System.

Recreation: Opportunities for recreation will be provided in parks. Parks will be selected primarily for their natural or historic value, but with full consideration of their recreational value.

Research: Parks will protect areas that are relatively free from human impact. These areas will be open to academic research. Natural areas that have been modified by man will be protected to allow for study of recovery from disturbance. Areas of historic importance will also be set aside for academic research.

Education: There are many opportunities for education in parks. Educational programs from Yukon schools will be encouraged throughout the year. Interpretive opportunities in parks will be developed, both by parks and other interested agencies. Interpretation will be designed to open park visitor awareness of

the particulars of the site and the historic or natural context of the site, as well as of the context of parks in the government's corporate management of natural resources.

Social: The operative premise of this plan is that the Parks System will benefit society. It does this by providing room on the landscape for the expression of values that are often precluded by extractive commercial operations. These include recreational, scientific, biodiversity, aesthetic, cultural symbolization, historic, therapeutic, and spiritual values.

Economic: The Parks System will play a significant economic role in the Yukon. The Parks System will do this directly through j o b creation in park development and operation. Parks c r e a t e opportunity for other sectors of the economy, primarily in the tourism sector. Scientific research project spending and the associated and growing ecotourism market will further economic benefits realized through parks.

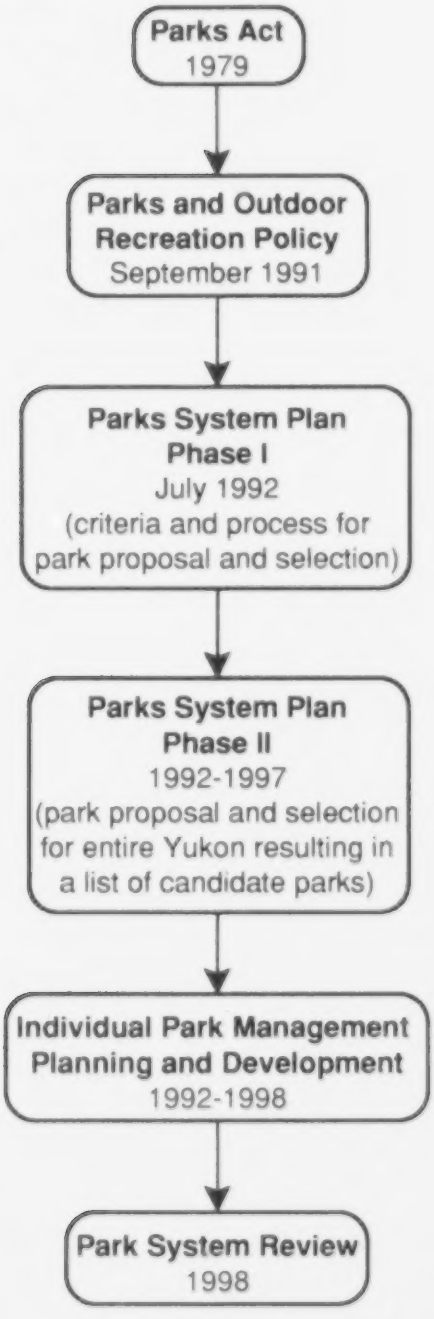
Intrinsic Value: Our society is increasingly recognizing the worth of the natural world. Worth is being described for areas and species which humanity has rarely used or experienced. This worth is often summed up under the term "intrinsic value." This value contains a dichotomy, since the value is an assertion made by humanity on behalf of the rest of the natural world. Like all values ascribed to the natural world, it is largely a subjective value. While society grapples with the relative importance of this value, parks are one mechanism that will protect areas, features, and species considered to have intrinsic value.

2.3 Plan Implementation

The implementation objective is to complete the establishment of a Yukon Parks System by the year 2000. At a minimum the system will include one Natural Environment Park in each of the eight Park Landscapes and one representative designation in each ecoregion.

Yukon Parks System Planning

Timeline


Parks Act
1979
Parks and Outdoor Recreation Policy
September 1991
Parks System Plan Phase I
July 1992
(criteria and process for park proposal and selection)
Parks System Plan Phase II
1992-1997
(park proposal and selection for entire Yukon resulting in a list of candidate parks)
Individual Park Management Planning and Development
1992-1998
Park System Review
1998

3.0 PARKS SYSTEM PLAN - DETAILED DESCRIPTION

3.1 Parks System Goals and Objectives

Park System goals are broken into the following categories:

- Conservation and Preservation
- Recreation
- Education and Research.

Conservation and Preservation Goals

i) To maintain the Yukon's natural diversity by protecting viable, representative examples of our diverse landscapes.

Mechanism: Natural Environment Parks will be employed to meet this goal. Ecological reserves will complement Natural Environment Parks with respect to this goal.

ii) To protect representative portions of each Yukon Ecoregion.

Mechanism: Landscape and ecoregion goals are largely coherent. Natural Environment Parks and Ecological Reserves will therefore also be utilized to ensure that the Parks System provides adequate conservation and preservation of special areas, representing the Yukon's diverse ecoregions.

iii) To protect key natural features of the Yukon. These include outstanding or unique examples of wildlife habitat, physical features, and natural processes.

Mechanism: Ecological Reserves will be employed to meet this goal. Special Features will also be protected through special zoning in Natural Environment Parks.

iv) To conserve and protect landscapes and sites of significance to Yukon's cultural history.

Mechanism: Historic Parks will be employed to meet this goal.

Recreation Goals

i) To provide outstanding back country recreation opportunities throughout the Yukon.

Mechanism: Natural Environment Parks will be employed to meet this goal. Ecological Reserves, while requiring a

greater degree of protection/conservation will also have some limited provision for back country recreation.

ii) To provide park attractions which serve as, or improve key destinations for outdoor recreation holidays.

Mechanism: This goal will be filled primarily through Natural Environment Parks.

iii) To ensure access to local outdoor recreation opportunities for all residents of the Yukon.

Mechanism: Natural Environment Parks will contribute to the fulfilment of this goal. This goal overlaps with principles set out in the Yukon Recreation Site System Plan. The goal may also be realized through Outdoor Recreation Sites, Recreation Corridors, Canadian Heritage Rivers (Federal), and other park systems, such as national and municipal parks.

Education and Research Goals

i) To provide opportunities for learning about the Yukon's natural and cultural history to Yukoners on an ongoing basis, and to the visiting/travelling public.

Mechanism: Provision for education and interpretation in all classes of parks.

ii) To provide opportunities for academic research in all areas of Yukon natural and cultural history.

Mechanism: Provision for academic research in all classes of parks.

Yukon Parks System Plan goals and objectives overlap with those of other agencies and jurisdictions, as well as with the Yukon Outdoor Recreation Sites, Campgrounds and Heritage Rivers System Plans. As a result, they will be met, in part, by initiatives undertaken through other organizations and pursuant to complementary Yukon parklands planning processes. Since the Yukon Parks and Outdoor Recreation Branch is not the only agency involved in the protection of the land and in the supply of outdoor recreation and education opportunities, the fulfilment of these goals must be considered and coordinated with all related agencies and mechanisms.

3.2 Park Planning Landscapes

The Parks System will be organized according to Park Landscapes. This organization will apply to Natural Environment Parks as well as to Historic Parks and Ecological Reserves.

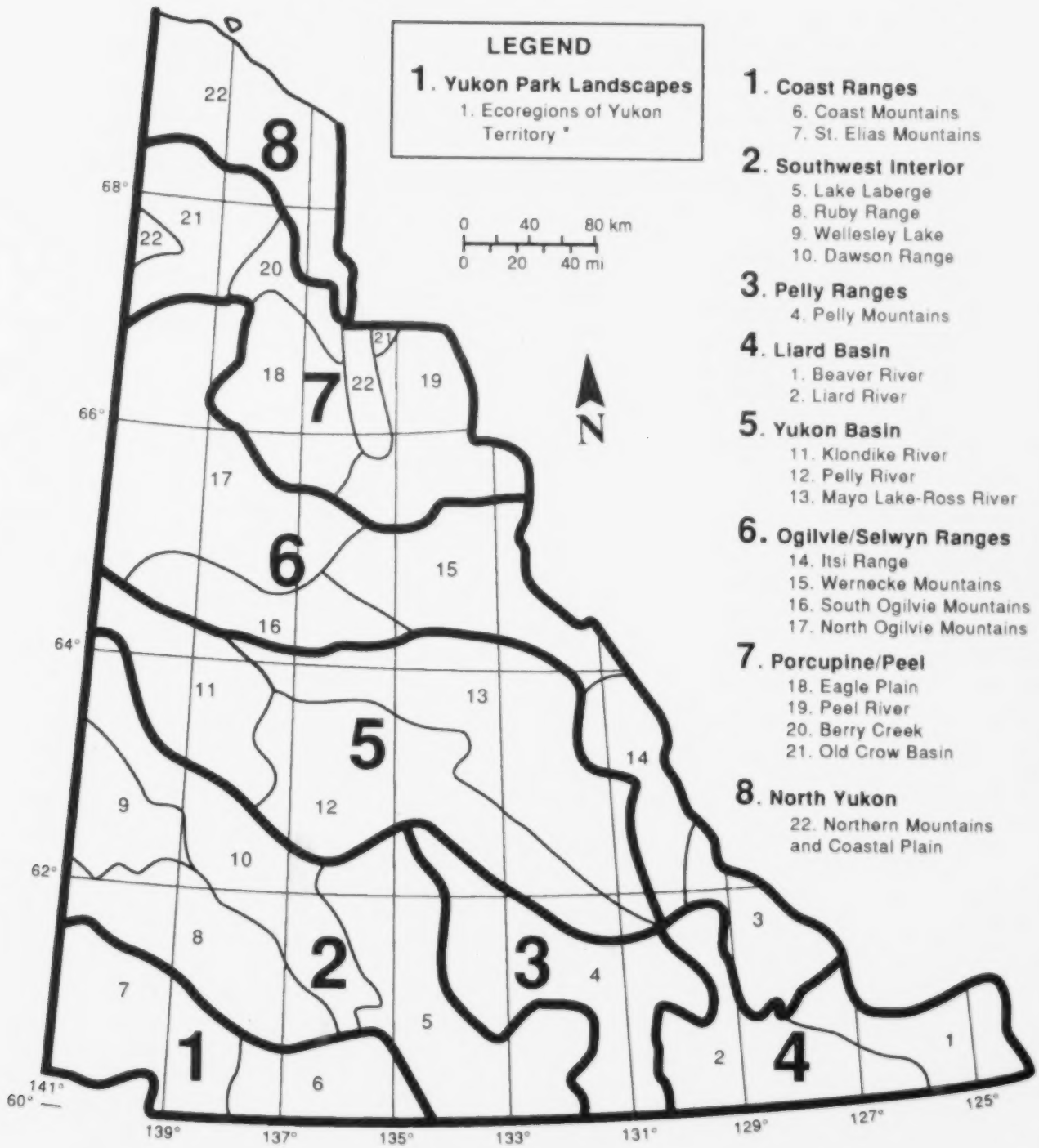
Park Landscapes were described using the general park themes, (culture; vegetation and wildlife; and physiography and climate) as delineating criteria. This process was guided by the following principles:

1. Landscapes must account for the total area and character of the Yukon;
2. Transitions between landscapes should be discernable to the lay person, and should be generally consistent with the intuitive classification of Yukoners;
3. Landscapes should not be so big that distinctly different and unrelated landscapes are lumped;
4. The classification system (what is the system?) should be well-founded and defensible; and
5. The classification system should be specific enough to serve to guide the candidate park identification and review process.

The Parks System Plan has identified eight specific landscapes (see Map #1) including:

1. Coast Ranges
2. Southwest Interior
3. Pelly Ranges
4. Liard Basin
5. Yukon Basin
6. Ogilvie/Selwyn Ranges
7. Porcupine/Peel
8. North Yukon

Yukon Park Landscapes



* Oswald, E.T. and J.P. Senyk. 1977. Ecoregions of Yukon Territory. Canadian Forestry Service, Fisheries and Environment Canada

3.2.1 Landscapes - Detailed Description

1. The Coast Ranges

The Yukon is the "hinge" in the Western Cordillera: the portion of the continent where the northerly trend of the Rockies and the Coast Ranges bend westward into Alaska. This Landscape contains those mountains of the Coast Ranges that intrude into the Yukon as they make this bend. There is no logical or significant ecological break in this system between the ranges separating Atlin from Juneau and the Wrangel-St. Elias ranges. Along this "hinge"--the ranges between the Skagway and the Haines highways--the essential form of the coast ranges is replicated: coastward, a range of rugged peaks catching enough precipitation to create ice fields; and inland, a rain shadow effect and low, more rounded peaks. Inland of the Coast Ranges Landscape, the Southwest Interior Landscape is obviously drier, with lower, and more gentle plateaux and peaks.

2. Southwest Interior

This Landscape contains parts of both the upper Yukon and the upper Alsek drainages. It is characterized by semi-arid continental climate, peaks and rolling plateaux that are lower and less rugged than the Coast Ranges. The rain shadow effect from the Coast Ranges is evident.

3. Pelly-Cassiar Highlands

The Pelly-Cassiar Highlands stand out as a topographical "island" defined by the Tintina Trench to the north; the lower, rolling country to the west; and the pronounced Liard Basin to the east. The area is distinguished by moderately high precipitation, moderate temperatures, and expanses of black and white spruce/lichen assemblies on open slopes and valley.

4. Liard Basin

The lower elevations, broad valleys separated by low, nearly free-standing ranges, and the rich forests of white spruce and lodge pole pine are readily notice from the ground or in the air. The characteristically rich forests are supported by moderate precipitation and temperatures.

5. Central Yukon Basin

The Central Yukon Basin is very much like the Southwest Interior Landscape. It is distinguished by somewhat higher precipitation producing richer forests in the South Macmillan, Stewart, and Klondike valleys; and by its transition into the Ogilvie-Selwyn Crest to the north and east. This ecological transition is

fundamentally different than the transition between the Coast Ranges and the Southwest Interior to the south. In many respects these two halves of the upper Yukon watershed represent a continuum from the shadow of the Coastal Ranges to the dividing arc of the Ogilvie-Selwyn Ranges.

6. Ogilvie-Selwyn Crest

By some descriptions, this arc of interior mountain ranges represents the northernmost extension of the Rockies. In defining this landscape, the entire area of the MacKenzie Mountains including the Werneckes emerged as a unit, with the Southern and Northern Ogilvies each as distinct sub-regions. We view this landscape as a unified area of high, rugged interior ranges separated by open valleys with sparse forests and an essentially common climate. In a functional sense, this is one of the great "borderlands" of the Yukon, separating the settled, central Yukon from the North and from the MacKenzie Valley.

7. Porcupine-Peel Country

After emerging from their headwaters in the Ogilvie-Selwyn Crest, these deep, broad valley rivers flow through similar topography, forests, and climates. The Peel and Porcupine Basins are separated by the relatively low broad plateau of the Eagle Plains, which historically tended to unify human use of these watersheds, since it provided easy transit between them. Compared with the more difficult passes through the Ogilvies and Selwyns, the Eagle Plains function more as a thoroughfare for caribou, aboriginal hunters, and latter-day travellers. The unity of this landscape is closely mirrored in the ties of culture and family between Fort McPherson, Old Crow, and Fort Yukon.

8. The North Slope

This is Arctic Yukon, and is unmistakable from any other landscape. A continuous area of tundra containing pockets of black and white spruce, this cold region approximates the summer range of the Porcupine caribou herd.

3.3 Park Selection Criteria

3.3.1 Historic Parks

Historic Parks will be designated to protect important historic and archaeological resources. They will generally be small areas that include the particular historic or prehistoric site or natural feature. Recreation in Historic Parks will be accommodated where appropriate. The main focus in planning a system of Historic Parks will be on preservation, representation, and research and education.

- **Preservation** - For some Historic Parks the focus will be on preserving specific sites that contain unique artifacts, or on which a significant historical event took place.

- **Representative** - For some Historic Parks the focus will be the representation of a particular historical theme. The site will not necessarily be considered unique.

- **Research and Education** - Research and education will be encouraged, especially in Historic Parks that contain artifacts or landscapes of high interest value to researchers and to the public. The use of the site will be managed in keeping with park specific goals regarding protection.

Selection Criteria - Primary

1. The site under consideration must be significant to Yukon First Nation history and culture, or will be deemed to represent a significant example or illustration of Yukon First Nation human activity; **OR**

2. The site under consideration is significant to Yukon human history and culture, or will be deemed to represent a significant example or illustration of Yukon human activity.

Selection Criteria - Secondary

1. The artifacts or the site itself are in imminent threat.
2. The artifacts or the site itself are in sufficiently good condition to use. Cost should not necessarily be a deterring factor.
3. The site or artifacts are unique or rare.
4. Potential benefits to communities will be considered (ie. if there are two similar options for protecting and representing a historical theme, the one most likely to bring economic and educational benefits to a community should be chosen).

Planning Framework

The Parks System Plan incorporates the thematic framework developed and utilized by Heritage Branch (Department of Tourism). This will ensure continuity between plans of both departments to protect heritage sites. The themes identified below will inform the selection process. It is not a specific objective of the Parks System Plan to include each of the themes within the Parks System.

Historical Themes Identified:

Economic	- Industrial/Primary - Industrial/Secondary - Commercial - Transportation - Communications - Settlement/Community Development
Political/Governmental	- Administrative - Judicial - Legislative
Subsistence	
Social/Cultural	- Religious/Spiritual - Recreational - Education/Information - Social Service - Peoples - Material Culture

3.3.2 Ecological Reserves

Ecological Reserves are the most stringently protective mechanism available to the Yukon Government. They will be applied to sites containing rare or endangered species, unique and interesting natural features, and to representative portions of ecoregions. Research and educational uses will be encouraged, in keeping with the objectives for protecting the site. Low impact recreation will be accommodated, but will not be the management focus of an Ecological Reserve.

Special Features - Management will take place to protect and preserve unique, rare, or threatened features and processes, or rare, threatened, or endangered species.

Ecoregion Representation - Ecological Reserves will be designated to protect representative portions of Yukon Ecoregions that do not have representative protection through other designations such as Natural Environment Parks.

Research and Education - Ecological Reserves will contain features, process, and habitats of high interest value to researchers and to the public for the purposes of research and education. Site specific management will maximize the potential for education, research and interpretation, while not jeopardizing the integrity of the site.

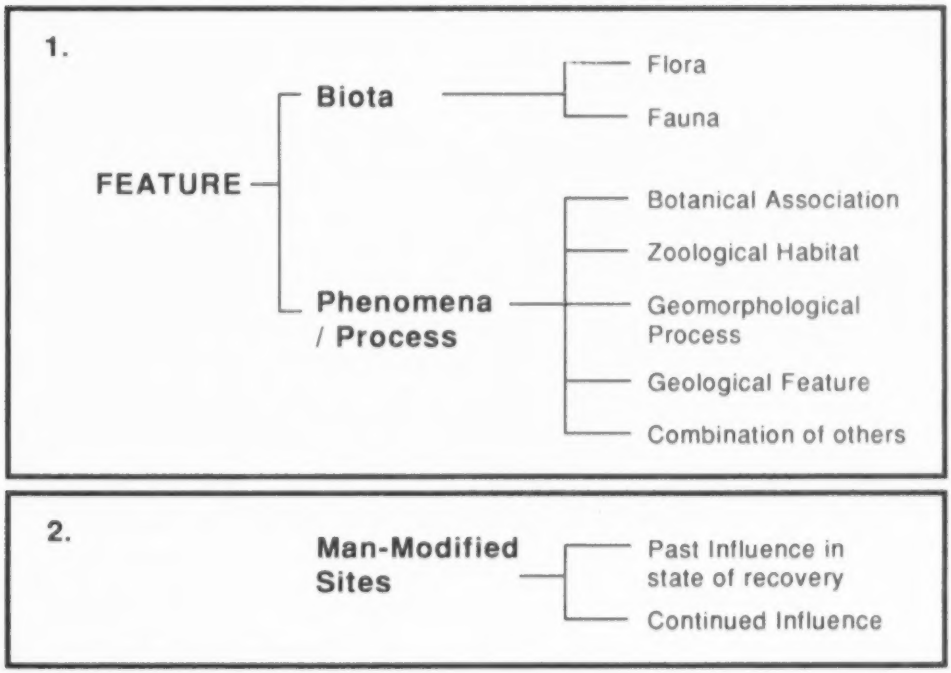
Selection Criteria - Primary

1. The area should contain rare, threatened, or endangered species, and/or representative examples of natural features and/or; unique or rare natural features, or;
2. The area has been modified by human activity and has research value regarding the effects of modification and the process or completeness of natural or assisted rejuvenation, or;
3. The area is representative of an Ecoregion.

Selection Criteria - Secondary

1. The feature is under imminent threat.
2. The feature is of sufficient level of integrity to enable protection without excessive rehabilitative costs.
3. The viability of the feature could be ensured by an ecological reserve designation.

Thematic Framework



3.3.3 Natural Environment Parks

Natural Environment Parks will be representative of Yukon ecoregions. They will be organized according to Park Landscapes, with at least one Natural Environment Park in each of the eight Park Landscapes. Outdoor recreation will be encouraged and planned for in Natural Environment Parks.

Natural Environment Park candidate areas will be identified in consultation with communities and other interests within the Park Landscape area. Within the parameters of the Parks Act and Parks and Outdoor Recreation Policy, Natural Environment Parks will be designed to accommodate and reflect community concerns and interests.

Objectives

1. To protect the ecological diversity found in the Yukon.
2. To protect features of territorial importance.
3. To provide back country recreation opportunities.
4. To provide opportunities for holiday destinations.
5. To provide opportunities for education and research.

Selection Criteria - Primary

The area is representative of the ecoregion.

Selection Criteria - Secondary

1. The area is of sufficient size and appropriate configuration to protect the representative area.
2. The area is of a sufficient level of integrity to satisfy the primary criterion, or displays the potential for returning to its natural state.
3. The area contains a diversity of recreational opportunities.
4. The representative area is threatened.
5. The degree of existing ecoregion representation within other Yukon parkland areas, or by other agencies.

Planning Framework

Parks Landscapes are the foundational elements for selecting Natural Environment Parks.

Specific Park Landscape themes will be described early on in the implementation of Phase Two. Theme identification will be coordinated by the Steering Committee and will involve consultation with other jurisdictions, agencies and key Yukon stakeholders.

4.0 PHASE TWO IMPLEMENTATION

4.1 The Planning Process - Guidelines and Objectives

The following underlying principles will guide Phase Two planning in order to facilitate the fulfilment of Parks System goals.

Achievability

Phase Two planning must be oriented toward the setting of realistic goals with regard to the number, size, and types of parks to be established (within specific landscapes and on a Yukon wide basis). The time frame for park selection, designation, and development must also be realistic.

Flexibility

The Parks System Plan will generate options that will be chosen from. This should minimize potential conflict with other interests.

The Parks System Plan is designed to encourage cooperation between governments and agencies and with stakeholder and other interest groups. It is through such cooperation that the prospects are best for Parks System implementation to proceed in a manner which is acceptable and in the best interests of all Yukoners.

Simplicity

The Parks System Plan has been developed to simplify a complex land use planning and allocation process. Throughout the policy development and system planning process efforts were made to simplify the framework for parklands development. Under the Systems Plan the number of park classes has been set at three and the number of zones at four. Keeping the categories simple will assist in both achievability and flexibility.

Public Participation

There has been extensive opportunity for public, industry, and First Nations participation throughout the policy development and Systems Planning process. These groups will also be involved in Phase Two planning, which will focus on the identification and review of candidate park areas. The degree of public participation will be greatest as Park System implementation proceeds, notably in the area of park management planning. This will be accomplished through the establishment of working groups comprised of membership from the local community(s), affected First Nations, and government.

Inter-departmental Participation

Amongst others contributions, the Parks System planning and implementation process will assist the Yukon in meeting its long term goals for the best use and management of its land base. To ensure that this goal is achieved, interested government departments and agencies were consulted with and participated in each step of park policy and system planning process. They will continue to be involved in matters such as review of candidate park areas and in management planning through participation on the inter-departmental Parks Steering Committee and upon governmental working groups.

Interdepartmental involvement in management planning through participation on community based working groups will be coordinated by Renewable Resources (as the lead department). Departments and agencies that will be involved include Tourism, Economic Development, Education, Community and Transportation Services and Land Claims.

4.2 The Planning Process: Selection

Implementation of this plan, including the identification, review and designation of new parklands will occur during the period 1992 to 1997. In 1998 the plan will be assessed for degree of completion. The overall objective will be to complete the Parks System by the year 2000. Throughout the implementation period, park selection will proceed as follows:

1) Candidate park areas will be identified through a number of processes, including land claims negotiations and inter-departmental and community consultations.

Land Claims Processes:

2) In general, land claims negotiations will provide the first forum for the identification and discussion of park candidate areas within a given park landscape. The Renewable Resources representative on the Yukon negotiating team shall be responsible for representing the "parks" interest.

3) The Parks and Outdoor Recreation Branch will be responsible for coordinating the inter-departmental liaison (including technical input) with the land claims negotiating team, to ensure that the corporate "parks" interest is fully understood and represented during negotiations.

4) Subsequent to the completion of a First Nation Final Agreement, Parks and Outdoor Recreation Branch, in consultation with other interested departments and agencies will assess the degree to which governmental goals (as

stated in the Parks System Plan) for the associated park landscape have been achieved and report same to the Parks Steering Committee.

5) The Parks Steering Committee shall determine whether or not, and to what extent public consultations regarding additional candidate parks will be encouraged for any given landscape.

6) Land claims negotiations do not provide a normative forum for the identification, review and potential designation of parks. Therefore, to the extent possible, efforts will be made to ensure that land claims candidate park areas are established which are consistent with the goals and objectives of the System Plan, and are subjected to the same assessment and reviews required within non-land claims processes.

Non-Land Claims Processes:

7) Assuming that governmental park objectives have not been fully addressed through the land claims process (#5 above), Parks and Outdoor Recreation Branch will coordinate an interdepartmental and public consultations process to identify and review additional candidate park areas.

8) Preliminary screening of candidate areas will be coordinated by Parks and Outdoor Recreation Branch, in consultation with other interested departments. This process will utilize existing data bases to provide an evaluation of the consistency between candidate areas and Parks System Plan selection criteria (detailed in Sections 3.3.1, 3.3.2 and 3.3.3). Data bases to be utilized include, but not restricted to:

- Yukon Natural Features Inventory, 1987
- International Biological Program (IBP) sites Inventory
- Environmentally Significant Areas (ESAs) Inventory
- Ecoregions of the Yukon Territory
- Recreation Features Inventory
- Key Habitat Mapping
- Protected Areas Framework
- Geological Survey Maps and Inventory
- Yukon Soils Map
- Forestry Inventory
- Historical Sites Inventories
- etc.

9) Assuming that proposals satisfy one or more of those criteria, they will be forwarded to the Parks Steering Committee for review and consideration. The Steering Committee will determine whether or not to initiate a detailed review and park management planning process.

10) Assuming the Steering Committee approves a proposal, Parks and Outdoor Recreation Branch will coordinate a detailed review and evaluation of the candidate area. This would include:

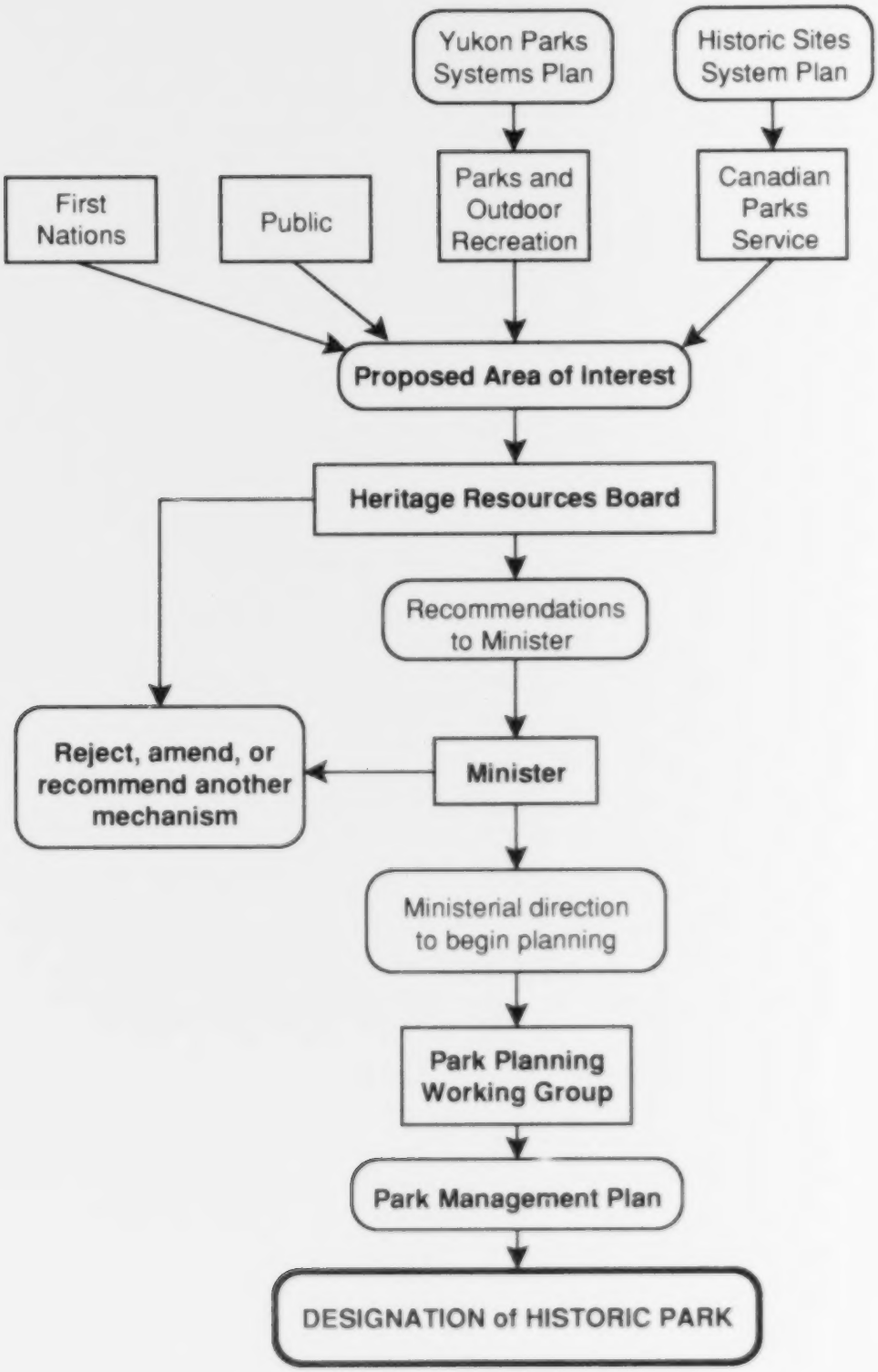
- a determination of land ownership and/or existing interests.
- an assessment of the recreational, scientific, economic, biological, aesthetic, cultural, historic, therapeutic and spiritual values of the area.
- economic considerations would include: forestry, tourism, mining (a full mineral assessment, if deemed necessary), agriculture, municipal, infrastructure (ie: access roads, hydroelectric projects, etc.) and other relevant considerations.
- community and stakeholder consultations to inventory area interests and confirm local support for the designation of the candidate area as a park.

Presumable this process would result in a recommendation regarding the viability of the proposal and, if appropriate, a plan to guide the process of designation and development of the proposed park.

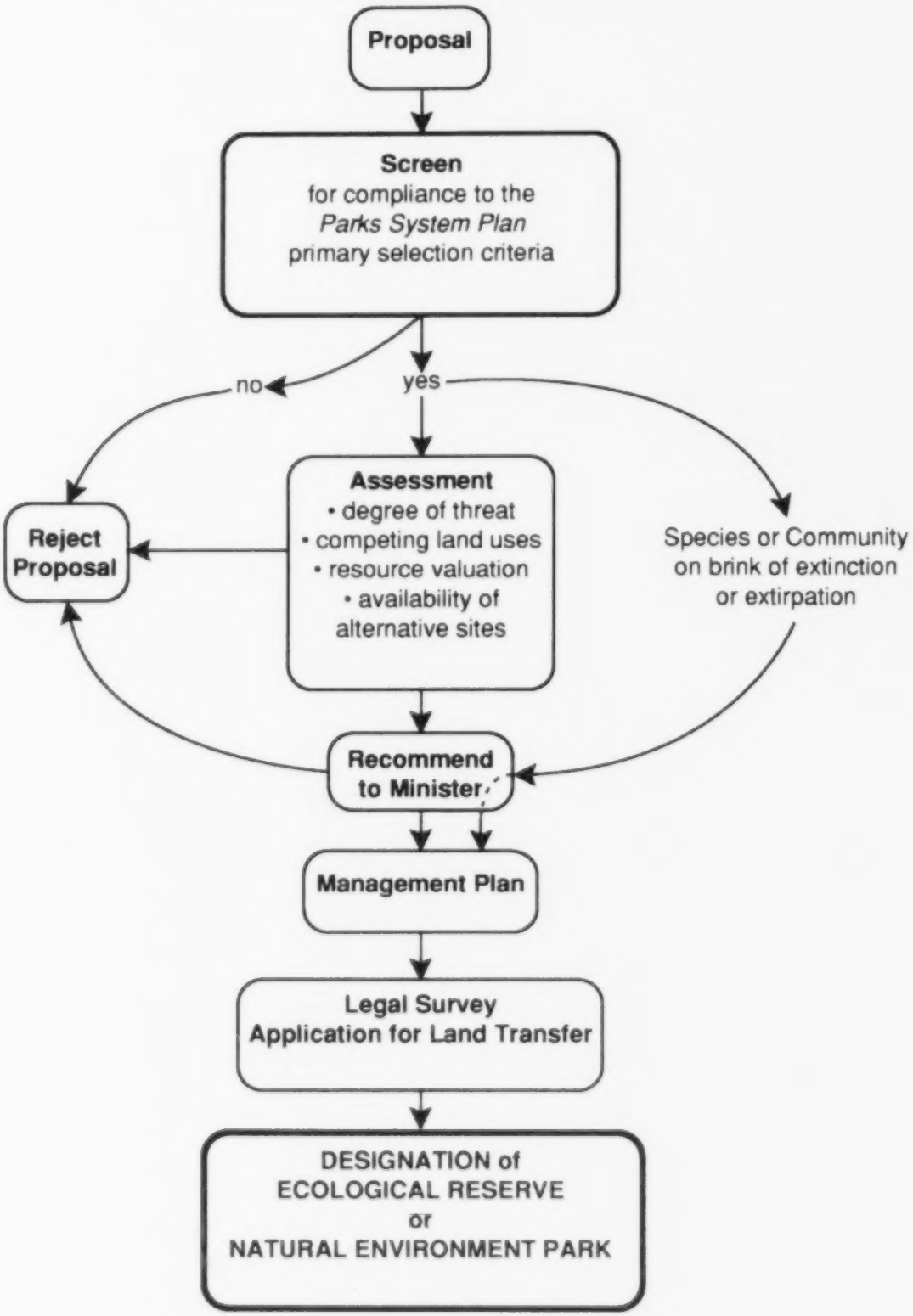
11) The Steering Committee would determine whether or not to forward the recommendation for further review by relevant government decision makers and ultimately, for consideration by Cabinet.

These are the main steps to be followed in the process of selecting Natural Environment Parks and Ecological Reserves. Detail will be added to these steps over the next year.

Selection of Historic Parks



Selection of
Ecological Reserves and Natural Environment Parks



4.3 The Planning Process: Management Plans and Responsibilities

Once the process for selecting parks is detailed, there must also be detail assigned to: the process for conducting management plans; the process for land transfer from the Crown; the acceptable uses of zones; the legislative standing of zones in approved management plans, design guidelines for park infrastructure; and management responsibilities. A general description of management responsibilities follows:

Historic Parks

There is a high degree inter-agency overlap in the mandate to protect Yukon's heritage sites. The variety of agencies involved are described in Appendix 1. Historic Parks will be sites either transferred from the Crown, or purchased from private land owners. The Parks Branch will manage the park related infrastructure such as: roads, trails, campgrounds, recreation facilities, and interpretive facilities. The Heritage Branch will manage the historic and archaeological resources within the Historic Park, as agreed to in the Park management Planning process. Where First Nations heritage resources are involved, the management and ownership will be as agreed to in the Park Management Planning Process, in accordance with the sub-agreement on Heritage, in the Umbrella Final Agreement.

Ecological Reserves

The land and infrastructure in Ecological Reserves will be administered by the Parks and Outdoor Recreation Branch on behalf of the Government of Yukon. The infrastructure will include developments appropriate to the zoning, such as: access points; trails; and interpretive signage. Interpretation will normally be the responsibility of the Parks and Outdoor Recreation Branch. Exceptions will include wildlife viewing sites within Ecological Reserves and other interpretive activities agreed to in the specific Ecological Reserve Management Planning Process. Special Features will generally be managed by the Parks Branch. There will be exceptions for features that require specialized management, such as plant and animal species or communities.

Natural Environment Parks

The land and infrastructure in Natural Environmental Parks will be administered by the Parks and Outdoor Recreation Branch on behalf of the Government of Yukon. Exceptions will include public roads; private holdings; and navigable waterways. There will be many opportunities for joint management of resources, particularly of wildlife. Joint management responsibilities will be described in Natural Environment Park Management Plans.

APPENDIX 1: SUMMARY OF SIMILAR LEGISLATION AND MECHANISMS

The Yukon Parks System will contribute in a significant manner to the achievement of the Yukon's long term social and economic goals and objectives. In addition, it will play an important role in the protection and preservation of the Yukon's biodiversity and special historic and physical features. However, implementation of a Yukon Parks System it is not the only mechanism for the achievement of these, and other complementary goals. During the planning phase, liaison with other jurisdictions and agencies will ensure that planning proceeds in an integrated manner, so as to minimize duplication of effort and unnecessary expenditure of limited resources. For evaluative purposes, this will require that Parks System implementation be assessed within the context of a multi-agency framework.

The following is a summary of the other agencies and mechanisms that complement the Yukon Parks System.

Government of Canada: The Federal Ministry of the Environment administers two agencies with related systems. The Canadian Parks Service, directed by the National Parks Act, administers National Parks, National Historic Sites, and National Marine Parks. The Canadian Wildlife Service is responsible for Migratory Bird Sanctuaries, legislated by the Migratory Birds Convention Act, and National Wildlife Areas, legislated by the Canada Wildlife Act. The Department of Communications has proposed legislation entitled the Archaeological Heritage Protection Act.

Government of Yukon: There are numerous systems administered by the Government of Yukon for protecting areas. In addition to parks, the Parks and Outdoor Recreation Branch of the Department of Renewable Resources administers Campgrounds, Recreation Sites, and a system of Corridors. Other protected area mechanisms managed by Renewable Resources are Protected Habitat Areas, directed by the Wildlife Act; and Wilderness Management Areas, directed by the Environment Act.

The Department of Tourism, Heritage Branch, manages Archaeological and Heritage Sites, as directed by the Yukon Historic Resources Act.

The Area Development Act and regulations and the Municipal Act and subsequent municipal zoning bylaws both regulate land use activities and thereby protect areas for specific uses.

Yukon First Nations Umbrella Final Agreement and Yukon First Nations Final Agreements: Special Management Areas can be created through the Umbrella Final Agreement. These areas can include any of the management options administered by government as described above. They can also include any special management plan drafted for a specific area.

Territorial parks agreed to through individual First Nations Final Agreements will be planned in accordance with the agreement, the Umbrella Final Agreement, and the Park and Outdoor Recreation Policy.

Municipalities: Communities operate parks that offer recreational opportunities, camping facilities, and protect and interpret historic sites.

Private Land: Lands in private ownership are sometimes managed for preservation or conservation purposes. The Yukon Environment Act encourages this through its provision for conservation easements attached to titles of private land.

Summary of Existing Options for the Management of Yukon Historic Sites

	Ministry	Agency	Legislation	Mechanism
Federally Administered Options	Environment Canada	Canadian Parks Service	National Parks Act	National Historic Sites
Territorially Administered Options	Department of Tourism	Heritage	Historic Resources Act	Historic Site
	Department of Renewable Resources	Parks and Outdoor Recreation	Parks Act (policy)	Historic Park
Other			Comprehensive Land Claim Umbrella Final Agreement and Band Final Agreements	Special Management Areas for Heritage Resources Agreements for National Historic Sites Agreements for Yukon Historic Sites Agreements for Yukon Historic Parks

Summary of Existing Options for the Management of Natural Areas

	Ministry	Agency	Legislation	Mechanism
Federally Administered Options	Environment Canada	Canadian Parks Service	National Parks Act	National Park
		Canadian Wildlife Service	Migratory Birds Convention Act	Migratory Bird Sanctuary
			Canada Wildlife Area	National Wildlife Area
	Indian Affairs and Northern Development	Northern Affairs Program	Territorial Lands Act	Land Use Permits, Special Regulations, Land Withdrawal
			Northern Inland Act	Water Board License Stipulation
	Department of Fisheries and Oceans		Federal Fisheries Act	Regulations
Territorially Administered Options	Department of Renewable Resources		Wildlife Act	Habitat Protection Areas
			Parks Act	Heritage Rivers, Recreation Sites, Parks, Campgrounds
			Environment Act	Wilderness Management Areas
	Department of Community and Transportation Services		Area Development Act	Regulations
			Municipal Act	Municipal Zoning Bylaws
Other			Umbrella Final Agreement and First Nation Final Agreements	Special Management Areas